

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan serves as the principal crosscutting guidance to Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters, Operations Office, laboratory, and contractor management to fully implement pollution prevention programs within the DOE complex between now and 2000.

To firmly demonstrate DOE's commitment to pollution prevention, the Secretary of Energy has established goals, to be achieved by December 31, 1999, that will aggressively reduce DOE's routine generation of radioactive, mixed, and hazardous wastes, and total releases and offsite transfers of toxic chemicals (see Section 1.2). The Secretary also has established sanitary waste reduction, recycling, and affirmative procurement goals. Site progress in meeting these goals will be reported annually to the Secretary in the Annual Report on Waste Generation and Waste Minimization Progress, using 1993 as the baseline year.

This plan encourages Federal and contractor managers to undertake the following actions, beginning in fiscal year 1996, to achieve the Secretary's pollution prevention goals:

- Each individual site shall develop its own goals, designed to help achieve the DOE-wide goals, and should submit those goals and appropriate Activity Data Sheets (ADSs) to its Operations Office for review.
- Operations Office managers should prioritize pollution prevention ADSs submitted by the sites, and work with their Headquarters Cognizant Secretarial Office (CSO) counterparts to ensure that budgets are formulated to achieve the Secretarial goals.
- Each Operations Office should direct its reporting sites to plan for and implement the priorities identified in this plan, and should take necessary measures to ensure their successful completion within allocated budgets.
- Headquarters CSOs that generate waste should allocate funds by approving site-specific goals and ADSs to reduce pollutants and long-term waste costs (e.g., by funding return-on-investment projects). In addition, each waste-generating CSO should identify an annual pollution prevention budget associated with site resource requirements, and should exercise diligence to budget for, and achieve, the goals set forth in this plan.
- Each Operations Office and site should make every effort to implement all applicable elements of the Secretary's December 28, 1994, *Pollution Prevention Strategy* (see Appendix B).

Implementation of this plan will represent a major step toward reducing the environmental risks and costs associated with DOE operations. Accordingly, CSOs and Operations Office managers should carry out the following six pollution prevention priorities immediately:

- establish senior management commitment to pollution prevention implementation;
- set quantitative, site-specific source reduction and recycling goals;
- institute performance measures;
- implement cost-saving pollution prevention projects;
- design pollution prevention into new products, processes, and facilities; and

- ensure that site programs comply with Federal, State, and Departmental requirements.

Operations Offices may take into consideration that resources are limited at DOE's small sites, and implement only those portions of the Pollution Prevention Activity Plan (see Appendix D) appropriate to the size and scope of such sites (see Table 3.1). This will help ensure that there is value added to the activities implemented compared to the costs incurred.

FOREWORD

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MISSION

The Department of Energy, in partnership with its customers, is entrusted to contribute to the welfare of the Nation by providing the technical information and the scientific and educational foundation for the technology necessary to achieve efficiency in energy use, diversity in energy sources, a more productive and competitive economy, improved environmental quality, and a secure national defense.

CORE VALUE – RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- We will be a leader in improving the quality of the environment for future generations.
- We recognize the importance of the environmental impacts of our operations, and we develop and employ processes and technologies to reduce or eliminate waste production and pollution in these operations.
- We place a high priority on the protection of public health and safety and restoration of the environment through cleanup of environmental damage caused by past operations.

POLLUTION PREVENTION MISSION

The Department's pollution prevention mission is to minimize the generation and release of pollutants to the environment by implementing cost-effective pollution prevention technologies, practices, and policies with partners in government and industry. The Department will simultaneously conduct its operations in such a way as to minimize impact on the environment, improve the safety of operations and energy efficiency, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Contents

1.0	PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN	1
1.1	Mandates	1
1.2	Pollution Prevention Goals	2
1.3	DOE Pollution Prevention Priorities	4
1.4	Vision of the Future – Year 2000	4
1.5	External Pollution Prevention Programs	4
2.0	SITUATION ANALYSIS	7
2.1	Trends	7
2.2	Extent of Waste Generation	7
2.3	DOE Waste-Related Costs	13
2.4	Pollution Prevention Investments by Sites and CSOs	13
2.5	Strengths of the Overall DOE Pollution Prevention Program	14
2.6	Challenges to Implementing a Complete Program	15
2.7	Opportunities for Pollution Prevention	16
3.0	IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE	17
3.1	DOE Pollution Prevention Activity Plan	17
3.2	Activity Plan Implementation Strategy	17
3.3	Implementation Status	26
3.4	Site Pollution Prevention Plans	28
3.5	Guidance on Funding Pollution Prevention	28
3.6	Pollution Prevention Roles and Responsibilities	29
4.0	CONCLUSION	31

Glossary of Terms 33

Acronyms 37

Appendix A: DEFINITION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION A-1

Appendix B: U.S. DOE POLLUTION PREVENTION STRATEGY B-1

Appendix C: SPECIAL ISSUE REVIEW C-1

Appendix D: POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTIVITY PLAN D-1

Appendix E: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES E-1

Figures

Figure 2.1	1993 Percentages of Routine Operations and Cleanup/Stabilization Waste Generation for Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Types	9
Figure 2.2	1993 DOE Facility Releases and Transfers for Treatment and Disposal by TRI Chemical	10
Figure 2.3	CY 1993 DOE Facility Releases and Transfers of TRI Chemicals for Treatment and Disposal by Site	11
Figure 2.4	Projected Total Waste Volumes by Waste Type and Generation Category During the Lifetime of the Cleanup Effort	12
Figure 2.5	Projected Cost Estimates for the Life of the Environmental Management Program	14
Figure 3.1	Work Breakdown Structure of DOE's Pollution Prevention Program	18
Figure 3.2	Cumulative Cost Savings to the Department from Achievement of Secretarial Waste Reduction Goals	21
Figure 3.3	Pollution Prevention Case Study	24
Figure 3.4	Status and Priority of DOE Implementation of Pollution Prevention Activities	27
Figure D.3.1	Key Elements of a Compliant Site Pollution Prevention Program	D-5
Figure D.3.2	Key Elements of a Generator Specific Pollution Prevention Program	D-6

Tables

Table 1.1	Comparison of DOE and Other Agency Waste Reduction and Recycling Goals	3
Table 2.1	Summary of Waste Generation Rates for 1991 through 1993 by Cognizant Secretarial Office	8
Table 2.2	Department-Wide Generation Rates for 1991 through 1993 by Waste Type	9
Table 2.3	Draft 1996 BEMR Projected Waste Volumes During the Lifetime of the Cleanup Effort	12
Table 2.4	Total DOE Dedicated Pollution Prevention Budgets for FY 95 & 96	15
Table 3.1	Small Site Implementation Criteria	17
Table 3.2	Departmental Source Reduction and Recycling Goals, Compared to the 1993 Baseline of Waste Generation	19
Table 3.3	Projected Annual Cost Savings to be Realized by Achieving Secretarial Goals	20
Table 3.4	Pollution Prevention Performance Measures, Routine Waste Only	22
Table 3.5	Pollution Prevention Performance Measures, All Operations	22
Table 3.6	Summary of DOE Roles and Responsibilities for Implementing Pollution Prevention	29

POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM PLAN

1996

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20585



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